

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: FRENCH JOURNALIST'S VIEW OF PRC INTERNAL POLITICS.

REF: PARIS 24933

1. LE MODE FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR MICHEL TATU
TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HE CONCLUDED DURING HIS
RECENT VISIT TO CHINA ACCOMPANYING POMPIDOU THAT
CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION WAS STILL FAR
FROM STABILIZED. WHILE CHOU EN-LAI WAS OBVIOUSLY
A VERY IMPORTANT FIGURE, HE DID NOT SEEM TO
CONTROL SOME POLITICAL ELEMENTS. TATU CITED
FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
LIPKOWSKI'S REPORT OF MAO'S PRESENTING WANG HUNG-WEN
TO POMPIDOU AS A "RISING STAR" AS AN INDICATION MAO
WAS USING WANG AND PERHAPS OTHERS AS MEANS OF
LIMITING CHOU'S POWER. HE THOUGHT THE INCIDENT
SHOWED ALSO THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN MAO AND CHOU WERE
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NOT SO WARM AS THEY WERE PORTRAYED OFFICIALLY.

2. IN PARTICULAR, TATU THOUGHT THAT THE SHANGHAI GROUP EXERTED AN INFLUENCE WHICH CHOU WAS FORCED TO RECOGNIZE. PARTICULARLY IN SHANGHAI, WANG HUNG-WEN BEHAVED WITH AN AUTHORITY WHICH INDICATED AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER. FOR EXAMPLE, DINNER INVITATIONS TO THE PRESS BORE PROMINENTLY WANG HUNG-WEN'S NAME IN IMPOSING CHARACTERS. THE PRESS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT CHOU EN-LAI WISHED TO TALK TO THE PRESS AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF POMPIDOU'S PLANE, BUT AS CHOU APPROACHED THE PRESS ENCLOSURE AT THE AIRPORT A SHANGHAI OFFICIAL WHISPERED A FEW WORDS AND CHOU TURNED AWAY AND LEFT IN HIS CAR. TATU AND OTHER JOURNALISTS CONCLUDED THAT THE SHANGHAI GROUP HAD VETOED CHOU'S PLAN TO SPEAK TO THE JOURNALISTS.

3. COMMENT: TATU IS A RESPECTED JOURNALIST WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE, AND HIS CONCLUSIONS, WHILE UNVERIFIABLE HERE, MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES.
GSD
IRWIN UNQTE RUSH

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